



Faith Alive

www.faithabq.org

February 21, 2007

Bruce Wilder, Senior Pastor ♦ Mike Easton, Pastor ♦ David Breidenbach, Pastor
Sunday Worship Services ♦ 8:00 am ♦ 9:30 am ♦ 11:00 am

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

“How often does a person have to go to church?” This question was asked of me by a man who is thinking about becoming a Christian. He was not worried about being polite or religiously correct. He asked his question in honesty and sincerity... and some naiveté as well. His is a good question, not just for those who are considering what it means to become a Christian, but for those who already call themselves Christians as well.



The first thing to remember is that Christians do not “have to” go to church each week. Instead, we “get to” worship the living Lord in joy and thanksgiving (read Hebrews 12). There is a big difference between a “have to” and a “get to.” One is based on rules and legalism; the other is based on life and freedom. God does not want you in worship because you feel as if you have to be here. I don’t imagine you would want someone to do something for you on this basis either! Instead, your heavenly Father delights to hear your voice in worship and see you among the faithful when you do so willingly and joyfully. God is worthy of our praise, adoration and worship at all times and in all places. He has called us to do this together, as a faith family, each week on the Lord’s Day. When you decide not to be here, you are choosing to withhold from your loving Father the worship that he deserves and that he desires.

The second thing to keep in mind is that we do not really “go to church.” The New Testament reminds us that together we **are** the Church, the living Body of Christ in the world (read First Corinthians 12). The building located at 10000 Spain Road NE is not really “the church.” It is the place where the living Church gathers to worship God, hear His Word and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. When you, as a member of the true Church, choose to exclude yourself by not participating in worship, you are keeping the Body from being complete. You are part of the Body of Christ at Faith. Your absence takes something unique away from the rest of the Body. Your absence in worship diminishes the Body which is designed by God to function as a whole, not a fragment.

So the man with whom I was speaking was not asking the right question. Only a non-believer or an immature and uninformed Christian would think of church as a “have to.” Those alive in the Lord and aware of His grace make a conscious and joyous decision to worship God with their fellow believers each week. It’s that simple, really.

So where does this leave you? God loves you. God has given you life. Everything you have in this life comes from Him. God died on the cross so that you could live with him forever. What will you do this Sunday as a result of God’s undeserved grace and unearned mercy at work in your life? God wants you to worship Him every day...and each week with the family of believers to which you belong. God deserves your thanks and praise. You can stay away or come and join the Body of Christ into which you were baptized and to which you belong.

The decision is yours.

Love in Christ,

Bruce Wilder
Senior Pastor

* Needed *

A Coordinator of Communion Servers for the 1st Sunday of each month!

Our thanks to Steve Rabi for his efforts in serving during the last year as the Coordinator of Communion Servers for the 1st Sunday of the month. We are now in need of someone to fill this important volunteer service. If you are able to help in this way and would like more information, please contact the church office. Your service would be greatly appreciated.

Love Babies? –Then here's a very rewarding ministry opportunity for you!

We are looking for an assistant to help the baptism coordinator for the 8:00 and 9:30 services and a substitute for the 11:00 service. You would arrive 30 minutes before the service, greet the parents, baby, and sponsors in the church office, answer questions, then show them where to sit in the sanctuary and rehearse what will be said during the baptism ceremony. If this valuable ministry appeals to you, please contact Katarina Nagy, FLC Baptism Coordinator, in the church office.

Attention Musicians!

My name is Bryan Gilliland and I am a member here at Faith. I have played the alto saxophone for over eleven years and I am looking to build a small private studio of alto saxophone players. All ages are welcome. If you love to make music and are interested in taking alto saxophone lessons, please call me at 203-0895. Cost is \$15/half hour or \$25/hour. Sincerely, Bryan



Member Updates

Baptism:

- ✠ Gregory Rey Archuleta, Jr., son of Emilie & Gregory Archuleta, was baptized on February 11
- ✠ Hailey Grace Bartomeo, daughter of Deanna & Adam Bartomeo, was baptized on February 18

Attendance	8:00	9:30	11:00	Total
Sunday, Feb 4	250	318	231	799
Sunday School, February 4				102
Wednesday Night Ministries, February 7				170
Sunday, Feb 11	140	443	200	783
Sunday School, February 11				128
Wednesday Night Ministries, February 14				0

Thank You!

Dear Pastoral Staff:

Thank you so much for making our 50th Anniversary party so very special. We are so blessed to belong to such a caring congregation with a wonderful and talented staff.



Blessings to each of you,
Roger & Jo Anne Abbott

To the Dorcas Sewing Group!

Thank you for the lovely lap throw you gave my husband over the holidays. His eyes lit up when he saw the warm, exquisitely made afghan.

God bless you all,
Mary Snyder

Dear Pastoral Staff!

We, the members of the Las Arañas Spinners and Weavers, wish to thank you for your years of hospitality. By offering your meeting room for our monthly meetings you have given us a home. You have our heartfelt appreciation.

Bright Blessings,
Las Arañas Guild Members

Dear Pastor Wilder,

I am blessed by the many caring and committed people at Faith. The presence of the Lord is truly felt in the Davisson household because of the commitment to prayer by all those who have shared in our trials. God's glory is shining brightly and I wish to thank each one of the prayer team.

God's Blessings,
Phyllis

Dear FLC and friends;

We thank you so much for your generous contribution in the amount of \$500. The compassion you show does not go unnoticed. Your donation will help in the evaluative process.

Colleen Fortuin
St. Martin's Hospitality Center

Dear Pastor Wilder, Members and Friends of Faith Lutheran.

It is with deep appreciation to the staff and the encouraging people at Faith Lutheran that we say "thanks" for all that you have done to spread the good news of Jesus Christ through the ministry of East European Mission Network.

In Christ's love,
Board members and staff of EEMN,
Pastor Dale Finstrom

Women's Book Club



We invite all women with a passion for reading to join us at 7:00 pm in the Cry Room the third Tuesday of the month. Mark your calendars!

Our book selection for **March 20** is "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini. We're always open to new members. Questions? Please call Nancy Gwyn at 296- 3190 (h) or 346-4673 (w).

Women's Brunch

The next Women's Brunch is scheduled for Saturday, **March 17**. Call Margo Schwenke at 856-1456.

Women of Purpose ~ 3/13

We meet at 7:00 pm the second Tuesday each month in the Library. For information, contact Delores Corbett at 299-5175.

Women's Friday Morning Bible Study

Our study of King David and the Psalms will conclude in February and a new study will begin on **March 2**. Our group is a mixture of ages, opinions, and perspectives while being united in Christ. We are missing YOU and would love to invite anyone interested to join us as we seek to know God more deeply as we study the people of the Bible. Please feel free to stop in at 9:30 am on Friday mornings in the Library. In Christ, Pam Limke (797-7529)

Men's Friday Breakfast

The Men's Friday Breakfast meets every Friday at Joe's Grill (formerly Twisters) on Juan Tabo & Candelaria at 7:00 am. Call David Harstad (298-6551) for details.

Men's Breakfast

Our next regular Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, **March 10**. Contact Dwayne Knirk at 856-0261 for details.

Promise Keepers

This men's group meets every Saturday at 7:00 am in the Library for study and fellowship. The first Saturday each month we meet at 7:00 am at Weck's on Louisiana & Montgomery. Contact Tom Stewart at 792-1050 for more information.

Dinner Out 50+

The next dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 14** at 6:00 pm. We have no hosts for this date; if interested in hosting, please contact Diane Wilder at the church office (296-0762). Most restaurants will only make reservations for a maximum of 30, so sign-up soon!

New Adult Sunday School Class

Join the new study "Beyond Bridges: An In-depth Look at the Mormons" beginning **March 11** and led by Ross Dudley at both 8:00 am and 9:30 am in Room 13. This study is a follow-up to the seminar held last November. Sign up at the Information Center and specify which class time you would like to attend. There is no textbook fee.

Note: No classes on March 25 and April 8.

"Master Our Passions" Class

This Sunday School class held at 9:30 am will end on February 25. The class voted to attend the new Sunday school class on "Beyond Bridges" led by Ross Dudley (see article above). Watch for details of future classes led by Mark & Lisa Platzbecker.

You are cordially invited to a
Book Reading/Discussion Event

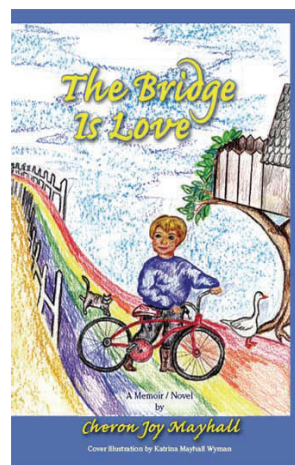
Dr. Cheron J. Mayhall
will discuss her new memoir

"The Bridge Is Love"

A Journey Through Grief to Joy
After the Death of a Child

Monday, March 5, 2007 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Lecture Hall

For information on the exceptional book, visit the website at
www.Trafford.com/05-1239.



Observations from a Volunteer!

I have always filled a couple of shoeboxes each Christmas. But this past Christmas season I had the pleasure of volunteering at the **Denver Distribution Center for Operation Christmas Child**.

As I was planning to visit my son in Denver, I signed up to volunteer one of the days I was there. I was given directions to an enormous warehouse and arrived first thing in the morning. The very friendly project workers greeted me and took me and the other volunteers through a brief orientation and training session which began and ended with prayer. I was one of about 50 volunteers who were stationed at the pre-sort area. There were at least ten bays where semi-trucks filled with shoeboxes arrived and unloaded them onto pallets that were brought to our stations in the pre-sort area. We went through each shoebox and extracted any checks or money donations, placing them in locked boxes located at our stations. The Center is very careful about security and have security guards overseeing this process. We checked the shoeboxes for the appropriateness of the contents and sent the boxes to be placed on age and gender pallets. They were then shrink wrapped and sent to the next area where more workers and volunteers added to the contents if needed. The boxes were again packaged and sent to the loading area. I was told that over 800,000 boxes from the Denver center will be sent all over the world with many going to South America because of our location.

It was an amazing operation and so well organized with hundreds of volunteers working each hour. I met others from church groups, retirees, and young people who were filled with the true Christmas spirit. What really touched my heart was when the supervisor told me that they hire many people each year who need employment. Many of them are unbelievers. During and after their experience at the Center, some of them become believers in Christ.

My experience was wonderful and I am looking forward to volunteering next year.

Sincerely,
Karen Carroll

Donate Blood



Come by this Sunday, **February 25**, to donate blood at the Bloodmobile in our parking lot.

If you are 17 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, have not donated in the past 8 weeks (16 weeks for double red cell donors), are healthy and are not currently taking antibiotics, we need your blood! Most donors find it a painless and heartwarming experience. Since the human body averages 10-12 pints of blood, it's easy to spare some.

Make your appointment now by entering on the web site at www.bloodhero.com or drop by the Bloodmobile. When you give blood, ask a United Blood Services technician if you are eligible for the shorter interview.

Will you be a hero for our first blood drive for 2007?

Storehouse Food Drive

Faith Lutheran Church supports the Storehouse by donating cans of tuna on a regular basis. When the Storehouse runs short of food, they purchase needed items from Roadrunner Food Bank at a discounted price. As we turn our thoughts during Lent to our Lord's suffering, death and Resurrection, may we reach out with compassion to those in need in our community.



March is an excellent time to extend our food donations to the Storehouse and we encourage you to bring other canned and boxed food items... in addition to tuna! Please do not bring any food items in glass containers, and remember to check the expiration dates! Look for the marked boxes in the Centrum. We will collect food for the Storehouse from **March 4 through April 1**.

Thank you for your generosity!

Mission and Service Ministry Team

These military personnel are family and friends for whom you wish prayers. Please call the church office to add (x) or delete names.

James Beakley	Ben Dufay	Gary Hogan x	Charles Schneider
Matt Borst x	Ryan Fenn	Chap. Rick Koch	Gregg Silva
Andrew Brabson	Linda Field	Adam Lawrence	Jerry Simmons
John Cawthorne	Tabitha Golden	Dennis G. Long	James Zurzolo
Tyler Donnell	Jonathan Hamilton	Thomas Nagy x	
Chris Donnelly	James Hansen	Mort Packer	
August Dudley	Chris Hinnerichs	Brian Peters	

Family Fun to Help Fight Leukemia

Enjoy a night of family fun at ITZ while helping to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society! My name is Chelsea Myers and I'm a member of Faith who will be participating in the LLS's Team in Training program. Between now and June 5, I will train to run the San Diego Rock & Roll Marathon and raise \$3600 for leukemia research, patient services, advocacy, and education. Our first fund-raising event will be held Tuesday, February 27, from 5-9pm at ITZ. For everyone who comes in with a flier with my name on it, ITZ will donate 15% of food and beverage purchases to my fund-raising account. Fliers will be available at the Information Center in the Centrum. Thanks very much for supporting me and helping raise money to cure cancer. Remember... to get the donation, you must bring one of my fliers when you go to ITZ on Tuesday night. For more information about Team in Training or the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, go to www.teamintraining.org or www.leukemia.org.

Bread of Faith Pantry

On **March 3**, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Linda Dudley and Vicki Hedin, our Kitchen Coordinators, will be making soup for the Bread of Faith Pantry.

If you are interested in helping, please call the church office or sign up at the Information Center.

Join us for some fun, laughter and a lite lunch.



Quintessence Choral Artists of the Southwest

Presents

"Masters of Songs"

Saturday, March 17, 2007 at 7:30 PM

Faith Lutheran Church
10000 Spain RD., NE

A spring concert spotlighting the masters of 19th and 20th century

German lieder and French chansons.

Program features the choral works of Schubert, Schumann, Debussy, Ravel and more.

Tickets

\$12 General \$10 Seniors \$5 Students

At the door or in advance from Music Mart on Carlisle

Middle School News

Spring Retreat

The Spring retreat is coming soon, don't miss it!!!! This spring the middle school youth will be going on another retreat. The theme will be "Fill it Up" and we will talk about love, forgiveness and sharing. We are going to be at Camp Stoney near Santa Fe again, the dates are March 16-18, 2007 and the cost is \$125.00. If your youth has not attended a retreat yet this year this is the last chance for them to do so. Please sign up and pay no later than February 25, 2007. If you have any questions please call me, Dawn Selberg 296-0762, or e-mail me at dselberg@faithabq.org.

Mid-School Summer Camp

This summer the mid-school youth will again be traveling up to Sky Ranch in Bellvue, CO. This is an amazing week long experience up in the beautiful mountains of Colorado. The dates we will be going this year are July 8-13, 2007 and the cost will be \$400.00, with a non-refundable deposit due no later than April 15, 2007. If you would like to go or just find out more about it, please call me, Dawn Selberg at 296-0762 or e-mail me at dselberg@faithabq.org.

H2H Calendar

February 28- "Forgive Us" Theme Night
March 7- "Time of Trial" Theme Night
March 14- Park Games, or Movie night
March 21- "Deliver Us From Evil" Theme Night
March 28- NO H2H (Spring Break)

Elementary School

Get Your Youth Involved

A great Sunday School class is offered for all ages on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:30 am. If your youth isn't already attending, encourage them to come check it out. If they are attending regularly, have them invite a friend! Wednesdays also offer something for everyone plus a great meal. We've started our second semester in WEBS (K-5) and all are welcome to join us for games, crafts and Bible stories. Second semester dues are being taken this month if you didn't already pay for the entire year.

Believe

If you haven't already purchased a CD, there is still time! You will be provided with great music from one of our very own youths--Sydney Schneider--and the youth department will be that much closer to purchasing transportation of our very own. It's a double blessing! Don't miss this important opportunity.

Look Who Was Born This Month

February

25 Carrie Heincelman, Jennifer Jacobsen, Dennis Jontz, Sarah Kelly, Marissa Salinas, Cynthia Whiting, Dorothy Zottnick
26 Katarina Curran, Richard Desterhouse
27 Kaylee Bachmann, Dorothy Berdin, Leann Brackin, Peggy Doll, Alexandra Frailey, Jennifer Haley, Brad Jenkins, Mark Stavig
28 Emily Doerr, Eric Dudley, Jane Hamill, Susan Hennie, Lisa Lachmann, Herlinda Mayo, Betty Walters, Ronald Weninger, Bonnie Williamson
29 Diane Umprovitch

March

1 Kari Bachmann, Roger Campbell, Zachary Garretson, Brandon Golden, Ashley Gonzales, Jean Haggren, Maggie Moberly, Wendy Rausch, Logan White
2 John Nichols, Brenda Williams
3 John Berlin, Jane Dowling, James Gehrke, Sarah Hamill, Robert Oberdorfer, Calvin Shaneyfelt
4 Sarah Curry, Cristie Flanagan, Scott Garretson, Connie Heller-Zeiger, Amy Schwendenman, Nathan Toniger
5 Lloyd Bonzon, Alton Donnell, Steffanie Dunn, Constance Eskam
6 Colin Castello, Galen Castello,



Anastazia DeAngelis, Carolyn Hasey, Katie Northrup, Marty Shaneyfelt
7 Raymond Caster, Gary Dannenbaum, Logan Lasher, Kaitlyn McLeod, Wes Wilkening
8 Anita Austin, Mackenzie Hendrex, Jim Martin, Erin Owens, John Pierucki, Linda Stefoin, Sarah Wyss
9 Anna Babinski, David Berry, Katherine Bigelow, Becky Burnell, DeDe Gear, Lana Harriman
10 Ian Annett, Rachel Barnett, Lonnie Dennis, Kyle Nyght, Patrick Orell, Lisa Walters

Prayer Chain

Volunteers for this ministry respond to all prayer requests by praying for the names they receive. All names are confidential unless you request the name be published in the "Prayer Needs" list each Sunday.

CONTACTS:

JoAnne Abbott 298-2039
Barbara Peterson 898-6093
or the church office 296-0762

The deadline to submit articles for the next Faith Alive is:
8:00 am ~ Monday, Feb. 26, 2007



Faith Lutheran Church
10,000 Spain Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111
(505) 296-0762

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